

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 06553 221923Z

65

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 OIC-02 FEA-01

TRSY-06 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 /170 W

----- 035971

R 221850Z AUG 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 404

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS MTN GENEVA 6553

PASS STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: QR CONSULTATIONS

REFA. MTN GENEVA 6479 B. MTN GENEVA 5239

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER RECEIVED TODAY FROM
AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION:

QUOTE I REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF 11 AUGUST, 1975 AND
OUR LETTER OF 20 JUNE CONCERNING THE CONSULTATIONS
TO BE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES AGREED
UPON BY THE SUB GROUP "QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS"
AT ITS MEETING IN APRIL 1975.

AUSTRALIA'S PRESENT RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS
OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND IRON AND STEEL SHEET AND
PLATE ARE EMERGENCY SAFEGUARD MEASURES APPLIED
AND NOTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GATT ARTICLE XIX
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 06553 221923Z

TO HELP ALLEVIATE SERIOUS DISRUPTION OF INDUS-

TRIAL ACTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT. THE DECISIONS TO INTRODUCE THESE RESTRICTIONS WERE TAKEN IN THE LIGHT OF REPORTS BY THE AUSTRALIAN TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY FOLLOWING A PUBLIC ENQUIRY.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH GATT ARTICLE XIX PROCEDURES AUSTRALIA HAS AGREED TO CONSULTATIONS WITH THOSE CONTRACTING PARTIES HAVING A SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST AS EXPORTERS AND WHO HAVE REQUESTED CONSULTATIONS. AUSTRALIA ACCEPTED A REQUEST BY THE UNITED STATES TO ENTER INTO CONSULTATIONS ON IRON AND STEEL SHEET AND PLATE AND THESE WERE HELD IN GENEVA IN JULY.

IN THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION'S VIEW THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE BILATERAL CONSULTATION PROCESS AGREED IN THE SUB-GROUP "QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS" IS TO ASCERTAIN WHY CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE GATT HAVE BEEN UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO LIBERALISE AND REMOVE LONGSTANDING RESTRICTIONS OF A QUANTITATIVE NATURE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE DO NOT CONSIDER THERE WOULD BE ANY BENEFIT TO BE GAINED FROM THE SUB GROUP "QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS" CONSIDERING TEMPORARY MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EMERGENCY SAFEGUARD PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XIX. WE ALSO NOTE THAT CONSIDERATION OF THE BASIS ON WHICH EMERGENCY SAFEGUARD MEASURES ARE APPLIED IS BEING EXAMINED IN THE GROUP "SAFEGUARDS".

IMPORTS OF TOBACCO INTO AUSTRALIA ARE SUBJECT TO A TARIFF AND NOT RESTRICTED TO A SPECIFIED AMOUNT AS IN THE CASE OF A QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTION. SINCE THE AUSTRALIAN TARIFF REGIME IS NOT RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE SUB GROUP "QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS" WE THEREFORE DO NOT PROPOSE TO TAKE UP THIS ITEM IN THE CONSULTATIONS.

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE IMPORT LICENSING CONTROLS MAINTAINED ON SECOND-HAND EARTHMOVING, EXCAVATING AND MATERIALS-HANDLING EQUIPMENT AND THE SCREEN TIME QUOTAS ON RECORDED TELEVISION PROGRAMMES, I HAVE ASKED MY OFFICERS TO CONTACT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MTN GE 06553 221923Z

MR. NEWKIRK OF YOUR DELEGATION TO DETERMINE A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME FOR THE CONSULTATIONS. IT IS OUR PREFERENCE THAT THE CONSULTATIONS BE HELD DURING THE SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER. UNQUOTE.

2. NOTE THAT AUSTRALIA HAS CHANGED ITS REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS FROM FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER TO SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER (REF A).

3. IN REGARD TO SAFEGUARD MEASURES, U.S. CONSULTED
WITH AUSTRALIANS ON HOT ROLLED SHEETS AND PLATES OF
IRON AND STEEL ON JULY 2 (REF B). GATT DOCUMENT
L/4149/ADD. 2, AUGUST 14, 1975, RECORDS AUSTRALIAN AND
JAPANESE AGREEMENT FOR EXTENSION OF TIME LIMIT WITH
RESPECT TO ARTICLE XIX CONSULTATIONS ON MOTOR VEHICLES.
WE EXPECT CANADIANS TO HAVE SIMILAR REACTION TO
ARTICLE XIX MEASURES INCLUDED IN QR NOTIFICATIONS.
PLEASE ADVISE HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND.WALKER

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